2008 Election Cycle I SCHOOL BOARD NO DEPT SCH DIST RES (3)



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My name is Terrance Tom, and I am seeking an "At Large" seat on the State Board of Education, for the following reasons:

First, my legal education, background and experience will enable me to analyze and understand issues, and to ensure that positions taken by the Board meet constitutional and legal challenges.

Second, as a State Legislator for 16 years, I was directly involved in drafting many of Hawaii's education laws. For example, the "Zero Tolerance" law prohibits firearms and drugs in our schools so that our children and school personnel can learn and work in a safe environment.

Third, as a Guardian Ad Litem, I represent children who have been harmed or abused. I work closely with the Courts, the State Department of Human Services, and private agencies to make sure that our kids have safe and loving homes.

Fourth, being blind from birth, I want to advocate for children with special needs to ensure that they have sufficient resources to succeed in school. But at the same time, let's not forget to support ALL of our students in regular education, by recognizing their accomplishments in school, and by providing support and funding so that no student will be left behind.

Finally, I want to serve. In my life, I have so much to be thankful for and public service allows me the chance to give back to the community. As a policymaker on the Board, I will always ask myself: will this proposal help to educate our children?